

Palawano language

The **Palawano** languages are spoken in the province of Palawan in the Philippines, by the Palawano people.

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Palawano	
Native to	Philippines
Region	Palawan
Native speakers	97,620 (2010 census) ^[1]
Language family	Austronesian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Malayo-Polynesian ▪ Philippine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greater Central Philippine ▪ Palawanic ▪ Palawano
Writing system	Ibalnan, Latin alphabet
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Variously: plw – Brooke's Point Palawano plc – Central Palawano plv – Southwest Palawano
Glottolog	nucl1738 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/id/nucl1738) ^[2]

Classification

There are three Palawano languages: the *Quezon Palawano* which is also known as the **Central Palawano**; **Brooke's Point Palawano** and it's dialect the *Bugsuk Palawano* or *South Palawano* and **Southwest Palawano**. The three Palawano languages share the island with several other Palawanic languages which are not part of the Palawano cluster, though they share a fair amount of vocabulary.^[3]

Phonology

The following overview is based on Revel-MacDonald (1979).^[4]

Consonants

		<u>Labial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Plosive</u>	<u>voiceless</u>	p	t		k	?
	<u>voiced</u>	b	d		g	
<u>Fricative</u>			s			h
<u>Nasal</u>		m	n		ŋ	
<u>Lateral</u>			l			
<u>Rhotic</u>			r			
<u>Approximant</u>		w		j		

Vowels

	<u>Front</u>	<u>Back</u>
<u>Close</u>	i	u
<u>Open</u>	a	ɔ

Phoneme	Allophones
/i/	[i], [ɪ], [e], [ɛ]
/u/	[u], [ʊ], [o]
/ɔ/	[ɔ], [ə], [ä]

Grammar

Verb conjugations are similar to other Filipino dialects with prefixes and suffixes indicating tense, object or actor focus, as well as intention (i.e. commands). These prefixes and suffixes can be used to create various parts of speech from the same root word. For example, *biyag*, meaning life, can be manipulated to mean "to live" (*megbiyag*), full of food (*mebiyag*), to raise to life (*ipebiyag*), living as an adjective (*biyagen*), or living as a present tense verb form (*pebibiayag*).

Palawano creates a diminutive prefix by copying the first CV of the base together with the final base consonant: *kusiq* (cat): *kusiq-kusiq* (kitten), *baju?* (clothing): *bä?-baju?* (child's clothing), *libun* (woman): *lin-libun* (girl), *kunit* (yellow): *kut-kunit* (yellow flycatcher (bird)), *siak* (tears): *sik-siak* (crocodile tears/false tears).^[5]

Pronouns

The following set of pronouns are the pronouns found in the Southwest Palawano language.^[6] Note: the direct/nominative case is divided between full and short forms.

	Direct/Nominative	Indirect/Genitive	Oblique
1st person singular	ako (ko)	ko	daken/dag
2nd person singular	ikew (ke)	mo	dimo
3rd person singular	ya (ye)	ye	kenye
1st person dual	kite (te)	te	kite
1st person plural inclusive	kiteyo (teyo)	teyo	kiteyo
1st person plural exclusive	kami (kay)	kay	damen
2nd person plural	kemuyo (kaw)	muyo	dimuyo
3rd person plural	diye	diye	kedye

Vocabulary

There are many linguistic variations among Palawan family groups with words changing from one valley to the next (i.e. *tabon* for mountain verses *bukid*). Tagalog is frequently used to supply words lacking in the local dialect for modern objects and actions which can cause confusion, especially among the younger generation, between Tagalog and Palawan. The more familiar a family or village is with the Tagalog lowland culture, the more common the language overlap.

Some Brooke's Point Palawan words are^[7]:

- *bibila`* or *ibeyba* - friend
- *maman* - uncle (also a term of respect for an older man)
- *minan* - aunt (also a term of respect for an older woman)
- *indu`* - mother
- *ama`* - father
- *isi`* - get
- *karut* - sack
- *tengeldew* - midday
- *mangelen* - purchase/buy
- *surung* - go
- *bukid* or *tabon* - mountain
- *manga`an* - eat
- *menunga* - Good
- *kusing, demang, esing* - cat
- *pegingin* - love (noun)

Phrases:

- *Embe surungan mu la`?* - is your friendly way of asking "Where are you going friend?", as a form of greeting.
- *Dun bukid ti`, mengisi` ku et karut* - means "There, to the mountain, I will get a sack."
- *Endey mengagat* - this is usually referring to the dog, as a way to say *don't bite*
- *Embe tena'an mu?* - Where are you going?
- *Dut daya.* - Up the hill
- *Menungang Meriklem.* - Good morning

Comparative wordlist

The following compares the Palawano languages with other Greater Central Philippine languages.

English	one	two	three	four	person	house	dog	coconut	day	new	we (inclusive)	what	fire
Central Palawano 1^[8]	sengbat	dowa	telo	epat	taw	benwa	ido	niyog	eldew	bago	kiteyo	ono	apoy
Central Palawano 2^[9]	sambat	duwa	talu	apat	ta'u	bənwa'	idəng	nyog	əldaw	ba'agu	kiteyo	ənu	apoy
Southwest Palawano 1^[10]	isa'	dua	telo	epat	taaw	benwa	ideng	nyug	eldew	bago	kiteyo	eno	apoy
Southwest Palawano 2^[11]	səmbat	dua	tɔlu	ɔpat	ta'o	bənua	idɔng	nyug	aldɔw	ba'go	kiteyo	ɔno	apuy
Tagalog	isa	dalawa	tatlo	apat	tao	bahay	aso	niyog	araw	bago	tayo	ano	apoy
Aklanon	isaea, sambilog	daywa	tatlo	ap- at	tawo	baeay	ayam	niyog	adlaw	bag-o	kita	ano	kaeayo
Hiligaynon	isa	duha/dua	tatlo	apat	tawo	balay	ido	lubi	adlaw	bag-o	kita	ano	kalayo

Writing system

Latin alphabet

The spelling is controversial with multiple translators using separate spelling methods, some using Tagalog based spelling while others use other systems.

Brooke's Point Palawano uses 23 letters: a, b, [k], d, e, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, ng, o, p, r, s, t, u, w, y, and ' (glottal stop). Borrowed: c, f, q, x, z.^[12] The 'e' stands for schwa and "dy" makes a 'j' sound.

Ibalnan script

In the 20th century, the Tagbanwa script was adopted from the Tagbanwa people by the Palawan people further south in the island^[13]. They call this alphabet '**Ibalnan**' and the vowel mark an *ulit*.^[14]



The Ibalnan alphabet

A	⠇	KA	+	NGA	↗	WA	⤒
E	⠃⠃	MA	⠃⠃	GA	⠃⠃⠃	DA	⠃⠃⠃
O	⠃⠃⠃	SA	⠃⠃⠃	BA	⠃⠃⠃⠃	YA	⠃⠃⠃⠃
TA	⠃⠃⠃⠃	LA	⠃⠃⠃⠃	NA	⠃⠃⠃⠃⠃	PA	⠃⠃⠃⠃⠃
RA	⠃⠃⠃⠃⠃	HA	⠃⠃⠃⠃⠃				

Another sample of the Ibalnan script

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- Brooke's Point Palawano dictionary (<https://www.webonary.org/palawanob/>)

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